



City of Leon Valley Opens New Fire Station
Uncoupling Ceremony and Tours Held January 16, 2015

The City of Leon Valley will open its new fire station at 6300 El Verde Road on January 16, 2015 at 9 a.m. with the dedication of a plaque commemorating the development of the facility at the main entrance. The Leon Valley Fire Department will be on hand to welcome the Mayor, City Council, Bond Oversight Committee, former LVFD firefighters including former Councilman and Fire Commissioner Murray Hacker who is credited with starting the Leon Valley Fire Department, representatives of area fire departments, residents, and City staff.

The ceremonial Uncoupling of the Fire Hose will be held at 10 a.m. in the bays of the new fire station. The Leon Valley Fire Department Color Guard will begin the ceremony with the Presentation of Colors. A traditional observance by the LVFD will be an area firefighter playing bagpipes.

"We are very excited to have a new fire station in Leon Valley. Our residents supported the Public Safety and Support Services Project and the Special Bond Election that resulted in the construction of this beautiful, state-of-the-art fire station," said Mayor Chris Riley. "This project was the result of the work of residents and staff. We want to thank everyone who worked to make this possible."

In July of 2011, a Citizen's Committee was formed to conduct an in-depth assessment of the City's fire, police and administration facilities. The committee worked with a consultant who provided technical assistance in evaluating square footage requirements and projecting design and engineering considerations, as well as construction costs. The outcome of the assessment resulted in the Committee's recommendation for 15,000 square feet of additional space and a renovation of existing space (19,714 sq. ft.) to facilitate public safety and support services to operate in a modern, efficient, and compliant manner.

The Bond Oversight Committee (BOC) was appointed to oversee the development of the project. Mr. Pedro Esquivel, Chairman of the BOC, expressed his appreciation to the Leon Valley community and BOC members for their support. "We spent many hours reviewing every aspect of this project. It was important to all involved that the Bond Oversight Committee provide the guidance and support staff needed to ensure that the money was spent on the best possible facility."

City Manager Manuel Longoria, Jr. emphasized that the Public Safety and Support Services Project brought together a variety of community representatives and staff to form a partnership that produced results. "Partnerships are key to development. In our case, we put



together a solid team to oversee the project from the selection of the architect and contractor to the selection of the materials to construct this facility. With the support and oversight of the BOC, our staff (which included our Fire Chief, Police Chief and Public Works Director), was able to work with the architect and contractor on each aspect of this project.”

The Leon Valley Fire Department is led by Fire Chief Luis Valdez. He is supported by Assistant Fire Chief Bill Lawson. “This new fire station was designed with the input of our 26 firefighters. We want to thank the residents of Leon Valley and everyone who made this fire station possible.” In addition to community support, LVFD found the generosity of area businesses and institutions overwhelming. “We have a great business community. Our Leon Valley businesses and businesses from the surrounding area donated many furnishings and supplies. Have you seen our table in the day room? It used to be a bowling lane!”

LVFD firefighters and staff will conduct tours of the new fire station from 10:45 a.m. to 12:45 p.m. on January 16, 2015.

An open house will be held in the next few weeks so that residents, business owners, and the surrounding community can tour the facility.